

Appendix G:

Public Involvement

«Owner»
«owner_address»
«owner_city_state_zip»

RE: Des. No. 1801933
E Hively Avenue and Norfolk Southern Railroad Grade Separation, Elkhart County
along Hively Avenue from approximately Monger Ave to Hazel Street

Notice of Entry for Survey or Investigation
April 25, 2019

Dear «owner»,

The Local TRAX rail overpass program is a partnership with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), local communities, businesses, industry and railroads to improve the quality of life for residents through large scale rail related transportation projects. INDOT awarded the City of Elkhart a grant through the Local TRAX program for grade separating the East Hively Avenue and Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing (the Project) in Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana.

Approximately 70-100 trains a day utilize the railroad tracks at Hively Avenue. These trains inhibit mobility for the 6,000 vehicles a day that use Hively Avenue. The Project will eliminate the existing Norfolk Southern Railroad at-grade-crossing at Hively Avenue by creating a new grade separation (bridge) that will carry Hively Avenue over the Norfolk Southern Railroad and South Main Street. Additional modifications will be made to surrounding local streets to accommodate the new grade separation (bridge), including street connectivity, pavement improvements and new drainage infrastructure, as required for the project. The Project will improve mobility in the area by eliminating vehicle backups and congestion that occur at the crossing and adjacent intersections due to frequent train traffic.

Our information indicates that you own property near the above proposed transportation project. Representatives of the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will be conducting environmental surveys of the project area in the near future. It may be necessary for them to enter onto your property to complete this work. This is permitted under Indiana Code § 8-23-7-26. Anyone performing this type of work has been instructed to identify him or herself to you, if you are available, before they enter your property. If you no longer own this property or it is currently occupied by someone else, please let us know the name of the new owner or occupant so that we can contact them about the survey.

Please read the attached notice to inform you of what the “Notice of Entry for Survey or Investigation” means. The survey work may include the identification and mapping of wetlands, archaeological investigations (which may involve the survey, testing, or excavation of identified archaeological sites), and various other environmental studies. The information we obtain from such studies is necessary for the proper planning and design of this highway project. It is our sincere desire to cause you as little inconvenience as possible during this survey.

If any problems do occur, please contact the field crew or contact the INDOT Project Manager, Jason Holder at 317-233-3427, email: jholder@indot.in.gov or Consultant Project Manager, Charles Boltz at 317-689-6923, email: Charles.Boltz@mbakerintl.com.

Please be aware that Indiana Code § 8-23-7-27 and 28 provides that you may seek compensation from INDOT for damages occurring to your property (land or water) that result from INDOT's entry for the purposes mentioned above in Indiana Code § 8-23-7-26. In this case, a basic procedure that may be followed is for you and/or an INDOT employee or representative to present an account of the damages to one of the two above named INDOT staff or representative. They will check the information and forward it to the appropriate person at INDOT who will contact you to discuss the situation and compensation.

In addition, you may contact Kathy Heistand, INDOT Real Estate Director, at kheistand@indot.in.gov. The Real Estate Director can provide you with a form to request compensation for damages. After filling out the form, you can return it to the Real Estate Director for consideration, and the Real Estate Director may be contacted if you have questions regarding the matter, rights, and procedures.

If you are not satisfied with the compensation that INDOT determines is owed you, Indiana Code § 8-23-7-8 provides the following:

The amount of damages shall be assessed by the county agricultural extension educator of the county in which the land or water is located and two (2) disinterested residents of the county, one (1) appointed by the aggrieved party and one (1) appointed by the department. A written report of the assessment of the damages shall be mailed to the aggrieved party and the department by first class United States mail. If either the department or the aggrieved party is not satisfied with the assessment of damages, either or both may file a petition, not later than fifteen (15) days after receiving the report, in the circuit or superior court of the county in which the land or water is located.

It is our sincere desire to cause as little inconvenience as possible during our work, and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Charles Boltz, PE
Consultant Project Manager

Attachments



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N642
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness,
Commissioner

Indiana Department of Transportation Notice of Entry for Survey or Investigation Indiana Department of Transportation

If you have received a "Notice of Entry for Survey or Investigation" from INDOT or an INDOT representative, you may be wondering what it means. In the early stages of a project's development, INDOT must collect as much information as possible to ensure that sound decisions are made in designing the proposed project. Before entering onto private property to collect that data, INDOT is required to notify landowners that personnel will be in the area and may need to enter onto their property. Indiana Code, Title 8, Article 23, Chapter 7, Section 26 deals with the department's authority to enter onto any property within Indiana.

Receipt of a Notice of Entry for Survey or Investigation does not necessarily mean that INDOT will be buying property from you. It doesn't even necessarily mean that the project will involve your property at all. Since the Notice of Entry for Survey or Investigation is sent out in the very early stages and since we want to collect data within AND surrounding the project's limits more landowners are contacted than will actually fall within the eventual project limits. It may also be that your property falls within the project limits, but we will not need to purchase property from you to make improvements to the roadway. Another thing to keep in mind is that when you receive a Notice of Entry for Survey or Investigation, very few specifics have been worked out and actual construction of the project may be several years in the future.

Before INDOT begins a project that requires them to purchase property from landowners, they must first offer the opportunity for a public hearing. If you were on the list of people who received a Notice of Entry for Survey or Investigation, you should also receive a notice informing you of your opportunity to request a public hearing. These notices will also be published in your local newspaper so interested individuals who are not adjacent to the project will also have the opportunity to request a public hearing. If a public hearing is to be held, INDOT will publicize the date, location, and time. INDOT will present detailed project information at the public hearing, comments will be taken from the public in spoken and written form, and question and answer sessions will be offered. Based on the feedback INDOT receives from the public, a project can be modified and improved to better serve the public.

So, if you have received a "Notice of Entry for Survey or Investigation", remember:

1. You do not need to take any action at this time. It is merely letting you know that people in orange/lime vests are going to be in your neighborhood.
2. The project is still in its very early planning stages.
3. You will be notified of your opportunity to comment on the project at a later date.



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RE: Des. No. 1801933
E Hively Avenue and Norfolk Southern Railroad Overpass Project, Elkhart County
along Hively Avenue from approximately Monger Ave to Hazel Street

Notice of Entry for Investigation
October 20, 2020

Dear «owner»,

The Local TRAX rail overpass program is a partnership with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), local communities, businesses, industry and railroads to improve the quality of life for residents through large scale rail related transportation projects. INDOT awarded the City of Elkhart a grant through the Local TRAX program for an overpass of East Hively Avenue and Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing (the Project) in Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana.

Representatives of INDOT will be conducting subsurface investigations including soil test borings and archaeological investigations including shovel probes for the proposed project from October 26, 2020 through December 15, 2020 (weather dependent).

The purpose of the subsurface investigation is to provide information needed for use in the planning, design and construction of the earth related aspects of the project. The purpose of the archaeology investigation is to complete required documentation to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. A portion of the required subsurface investigation work and archaeology work needs to be performed on or adjacent to property that available records indicate you currently own. If you own this property but do not currently occupy it, we request you provide this letter to the current occupant. If you no longer own this property, please let us know.

In order to accomplish the subsurface investigation, it will be necessary for INDOT representatives to access test boring locations on your property with a test drilling rig and a support truck. Furthermore, it may be necessary to clear some brush and/or trees in order to access the appropriate locations for some of the test borings.

Anyone performing this type of work has been instructed to identify him or herself to you, if you are available, before they enter your property.

Indiana Code 8-23-7-26 provides authorized representatives of INDOT, *Right of Entry* to the project site (including private property) upon proper notification. A copy of the relevant code and a Notice of Entry discussion sheet, as found on INDOT's website, are attached to this letter. Pursuant to Indiana Code 8-23-7-27, this letter serves as written notification of the intention to drill test borings, take shovel probes, and drive on your property in the next several weeks.

If any problems do occur, please contact the field crew or contact the INDOT Project Manager, Jason Holder at 317-233-3427, email: jholder@indot.in.gov or Consultant Project Manager, Charles Boltz at 317-689-6923, email: Charles.Boltz@mbakerintl.com.

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In addition, you may contact William Geibel, INDOT Real Estate Director, at WGeibel@indot.in.gov. The Real Estate Director can provide you with a form to request compensation for damages. After filling out the form, you can return it to the Real Estate Director for consideration, and the Real Estate Director may be contacted if you have questions regarding the matter, rights, and procedures.

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Please be assured it is our sincere desire to cause as little inconvenience and disruption to your property. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Charles Boltz, PE
Consultant Project Manager

Attachments



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IC 8-23-7

Chapter 7. Real Property Transactions

IC 8-23-7-26

Surveys and investigations; right of entry

Sec. 26. An authorized employee or representative of the department engaged in a survey or investigation authorized by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, including a survey or investigation for purposes of IC 8-23-5-9, may enter upon, over, or under any land or property within Indiana to conduct the survey or investigation by manual or mechanical means, which include the following:

- (1) Inspecting.
- (2) Measuring.
- (3) Leveling.
- (4) Boring.
- (5) Trenching.
- (6) Sample-taking.
- (7) Archeological digging.
- (8) Investigating soil and foundation.
- (9) Transporting equipment.
- (10) Any other work necessary to carry out the survey or investigation.

As added by P.L.18-1990, SEC.216. Amended by P.L.99-2008, SEC.2.

IC 8-23-7-27

Surveys and investigations; notification of occupants

Sec. 27. (a) Before an authorized employee or representative of the department enters upon, over, or under any land or water under section 26 of this chapter, the occupant of the land or water shall be notified in writing by first class United States mail of the entry not later than five (5) days before the date of entry. The employee or representative of the department shall present written identification or authorization to the occupant of the land or water before entering the land or water.

(b) At the same time and in the same manner as the notice required under subsection (a), the department shall notify the occupant and the record owner of the land or property of the following:

(1) With respect to damage that occurs to the land or property as a result of entry upon, over, or under the land or property as set forth in section 26 of this chapter:

(A) a description of the aggrieved party's right to compensation for the damage from the department; and

(B) the procedure that the aggrieved party must follow to obtain the compensation.

(2) The name, mailing address, and telephone number of an individual or office within the department to which an aggrieved party may direct questions concerning the rights and procedures



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described in subdivision (1).

As added by P.L.18-1990, SEC.216. Amended by P.L.99-2008, SEC.3.

IC 8-23-7-28

Surveys and investigations; compensation for damages

Sec. 28. If during an entry under section 26 of this chapter damage occurs to the land or water as a result of the entry or work performed during the entry, the department shall compensate the aggrieved party. If the aggrieved party is not satisfied with the compensation determined by the department, the amount of damages shall be assessed by the county agricultural extension educator of the county in which the land or water is located and two (2) disinterested residents of the county, one (1) appointed by the aggrieved party and one (1) appointed by the department. A written report of the assessment of damages shall be mailed to the aggrieved party and the department by first class United States mail. If either the department or the aggrieved party is not satisfied with the assessment of damages, either or both may file a petition, not later than fifteen (15) days after receiving the report, in the circuit or superior court of the county in which the land or water is located. The department shall pay any compensation awarded to an aggrieved party under this section:

(1) not more than sixty (60) days after the date on which the parties agree to the amount of the compensation; or

(2) as ordered by the circuit or superior court.

As added by P.L.18-1990, SEC.216. Amended by P.L.40-1993, SEC.3; P.L.99-2008, SEC.4.



Hively Avenue Overpass Project Public Involvement Plan

Updated December 23, 2021

Prepared for:
City of Elkhart
&
Indiana Department of Transportation



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Introduction and Goals

Introduction

The Hively Avenue Overpass Project (the Project) is part of the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Local TRAX rail overpass program. The Local TRAX program is a partnership with INDOT, local communities, businesses, industry and railroads to improve the quality of life for residents through large scale rail related transportation projects. INDOT awarded the City of Elkhart a grant through the Local TRAX program for grade separating the East Hively Avenue and Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing in Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana.

The Project will eliminate the existing Norfolk Southern Railroad at-grade-crossing at Hively Avenue by creating a new grade separation (bridge) that will carry Hively Avenue over the Norfolk Southern Railroad and South Main Street. Additional modifications will be made to surrounding local streets to accommodate the new grade separation (bridge), including street connectivity, pavement improvements and new drainage infrastructure, as required for the project. The Project will improve mobility in the area by eliminating vehicle backups and congestion that occur at the crossing and adjacent intersections due to frequent train traffic.

Due to the nature of the project and potential community impacts and benefits, public involvement is an important component to the project development process. The City of Elkhart is a partner with INDOT for the project and the public involvement process. This Hively Avenue Overpass Project Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is designed to educate and engage the public throughout the design and environmental process.

Project Funding

The City of Elkhart was awarded approximately 12 million in 2018 through the Local TRAX program. Project Information can be found on both INDOT and the City of Elkhart websites:

- <https://secure.in.gov/indot/files/Local%20Trax%20Flier%20April2020.pdf>
- <https://www.elkhartindiana.org/egov/apps/document/center.egov?view=item&id=5594>

Project Overview

The City of Elkhart funded a Preliminary Grade Separation Feasibility Study in 2017. The purpose of the report was to document the feasibility study phase of a grade separation of Hively Avenue at the Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing. The project advanced with the Local TRAX funding awarded in 2018. A Phase I Engineering Assessment Report was completed by Michael Baker in 2019. Phase I engineering and environmental studies are on-going.

The City of Elkhart also has a Local TRAX project located south of Hively Avenue at Sunnyside Avenue. While this is a separate project, it is important to understand and communicate the area network with the public. See Exhibit 1 for an Area Network Map.

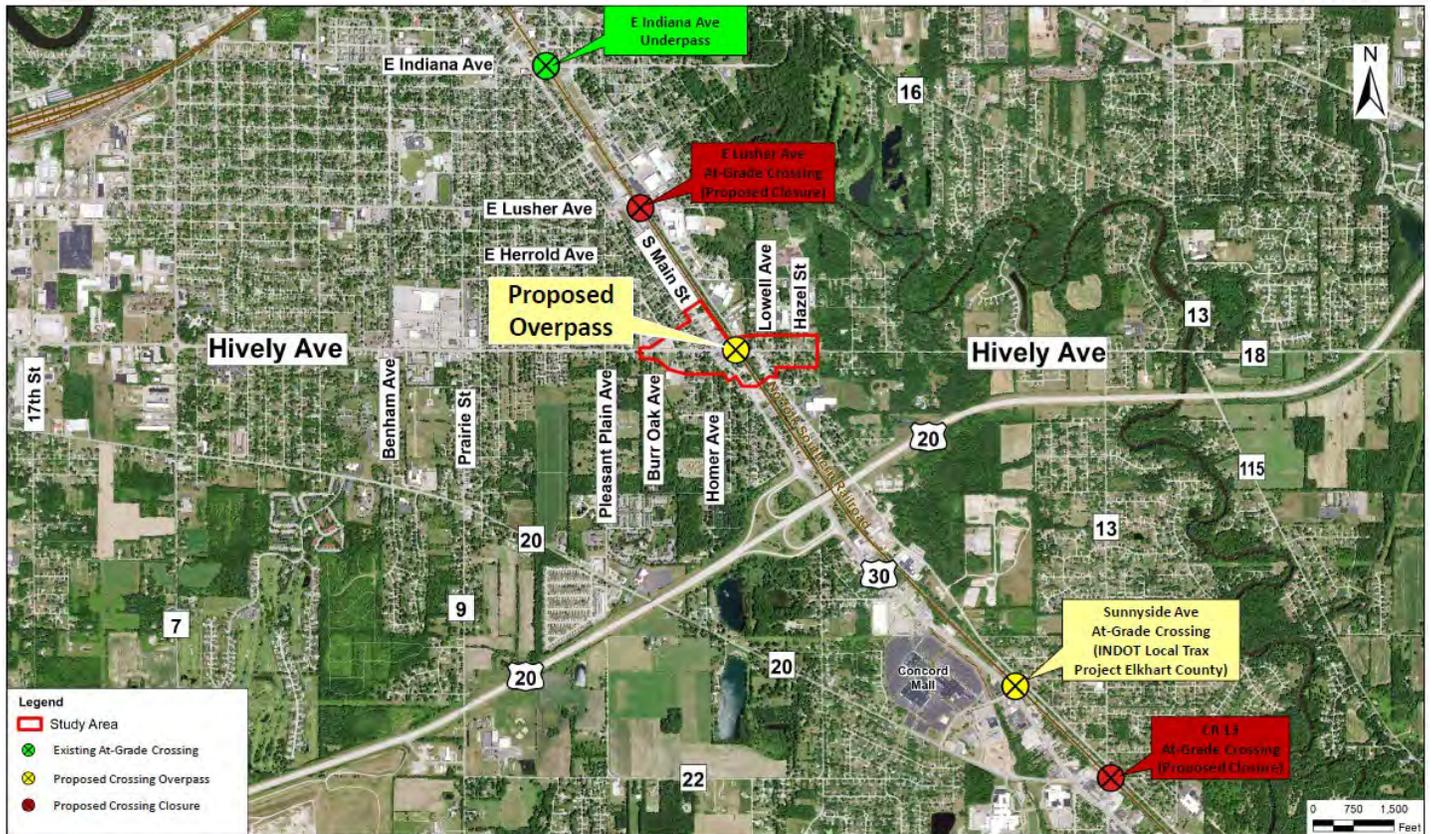


Exhibit 1. Area Network Map

Purpose and need

The project is needed to address the existing traffic congestion caused by approximately 70-100 trains that utilize the railroad tracks at Hively Avenue per day. These trains inhibit mobility for the 6,000 vehicles a day that use Hively Avenue. This causes motorist backups on Hively Avenue and the adjacent local streets that could lead to potential safety concerns.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has published guidelines to determine when converting an at-grade railroad crossing into a grade separated crossing is justified. The guidelines are published in the following document “Guidance on Traffic Control Devices at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings (FHWA, November 2002). The guidelines list several criteria that can be used to warrant a railroad grade separated crossing. Meeting just one (1) of those criteria is enough to justify grade-separation. The Hively Avenue railroad crossing meets three (3) of those criteria. The table below summarizes these criteria and how the Hively Avenue crossing exceeds the criteria.

Table 1. FHWA Warrants for Grade Separation

Category	Criteria	Hively Ave Crossing
Number of trains	An average of 75 or more trains per day	This location has an estimated 90 trains per day at a maximum allowable train speed of 79 mph
Expected crash frequency	The expected crash frequency exceeds 2% per year	This location has an expected crash frequency of 5.22% per year
Vehicle delay	Vehicle delay exceeds 30 vehicle-hours per day	This location has an estimated 50 to 200 vehicle-hours of delay per day

The purpose of the project is to improve mobility and safety within the project area by eliminating vehicle backups and congestion while maintaining, as much as possible, access and connectivity.

Community Context/Study Area

Based on the preliminary feasibility study and community context, a study area was defined to take a closer look at the community, resources, and potential design solutions. This was used to focus public outreach efforts to the community within and adjacent to the study area. See Exhibit 2 for Study Area Map.

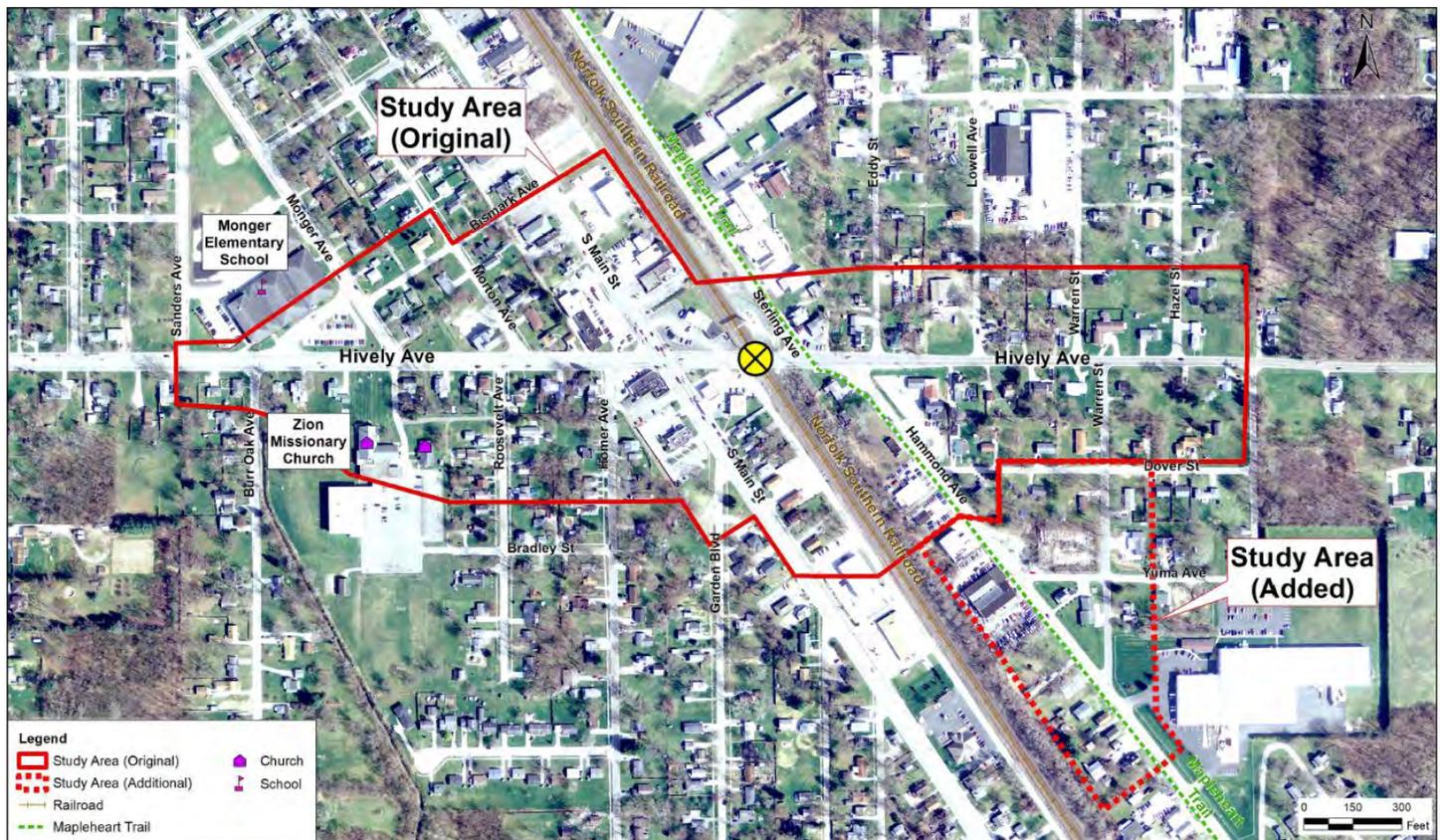


Exhibit 2. Hively Avenue Overpass Study Area

Environmental Justice Populations

A review of US Census Bureau data was conducted to identify if there are any Environmental Justice (EJ) populations within the study area in order to better understand appropriate outreach efforts. Environmental Justice (EJ) refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, income, national origin, or educational level with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Review of the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 5 Year Estimates identified Block Groups within the study area that had low income, minority, and Spanish speaking households. Exhibits 3, 4, and 5 show percentages within each Block Group.

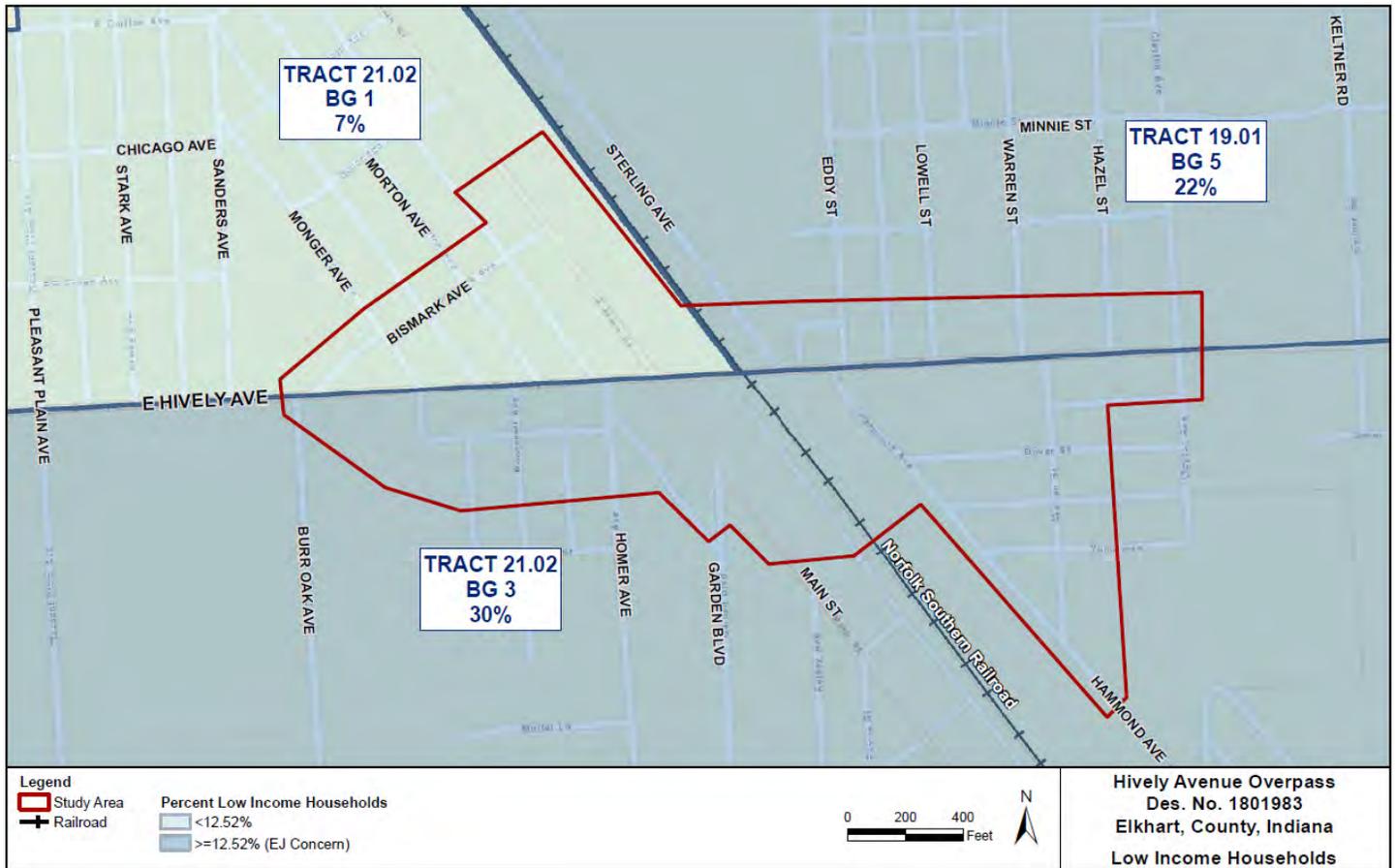


Exhibit 3. Hively Avenue Overpass Low Income Households within Study Area

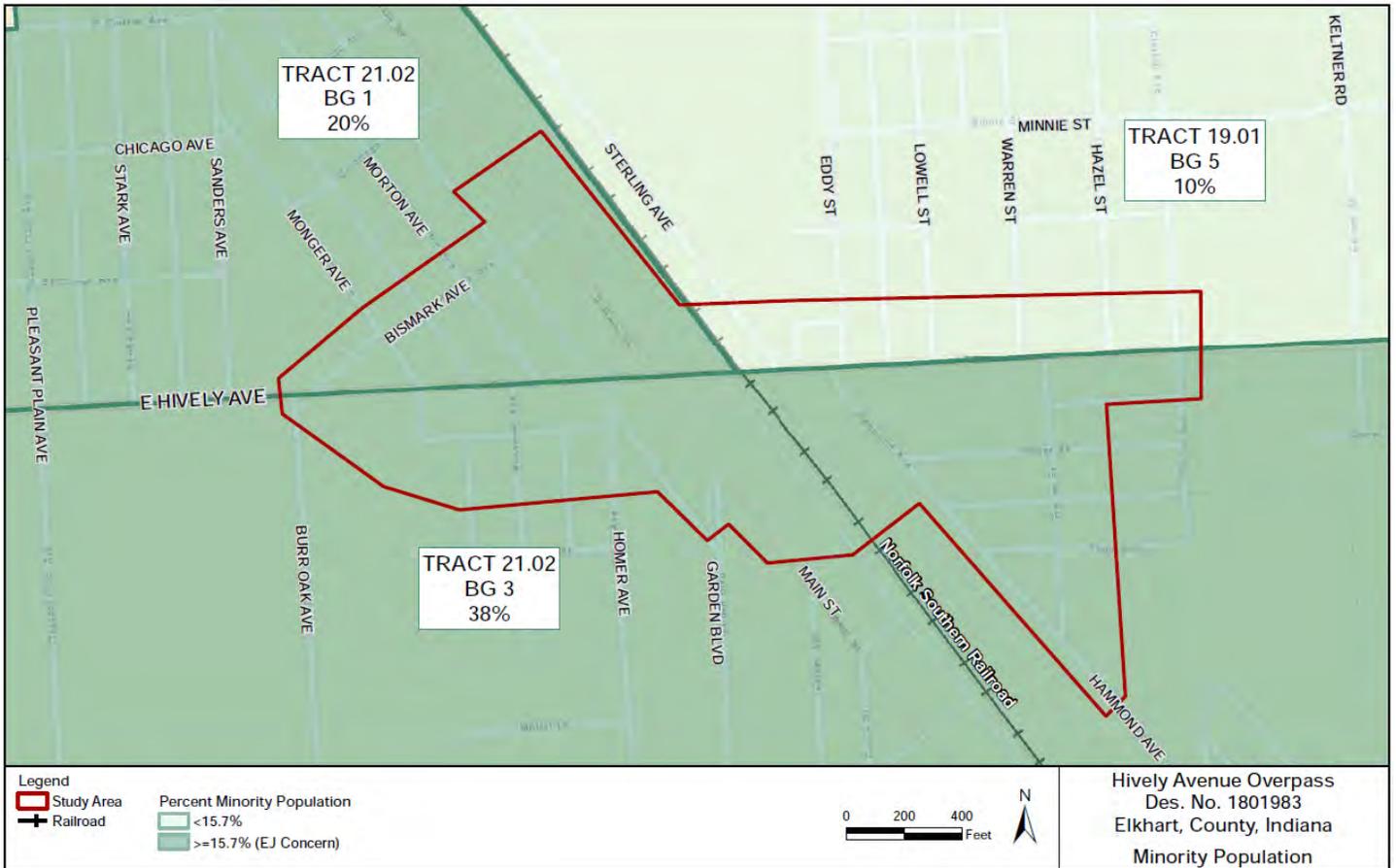


Exhibit 4. Hively Avenue Overpass Minority Population Households within Study Area

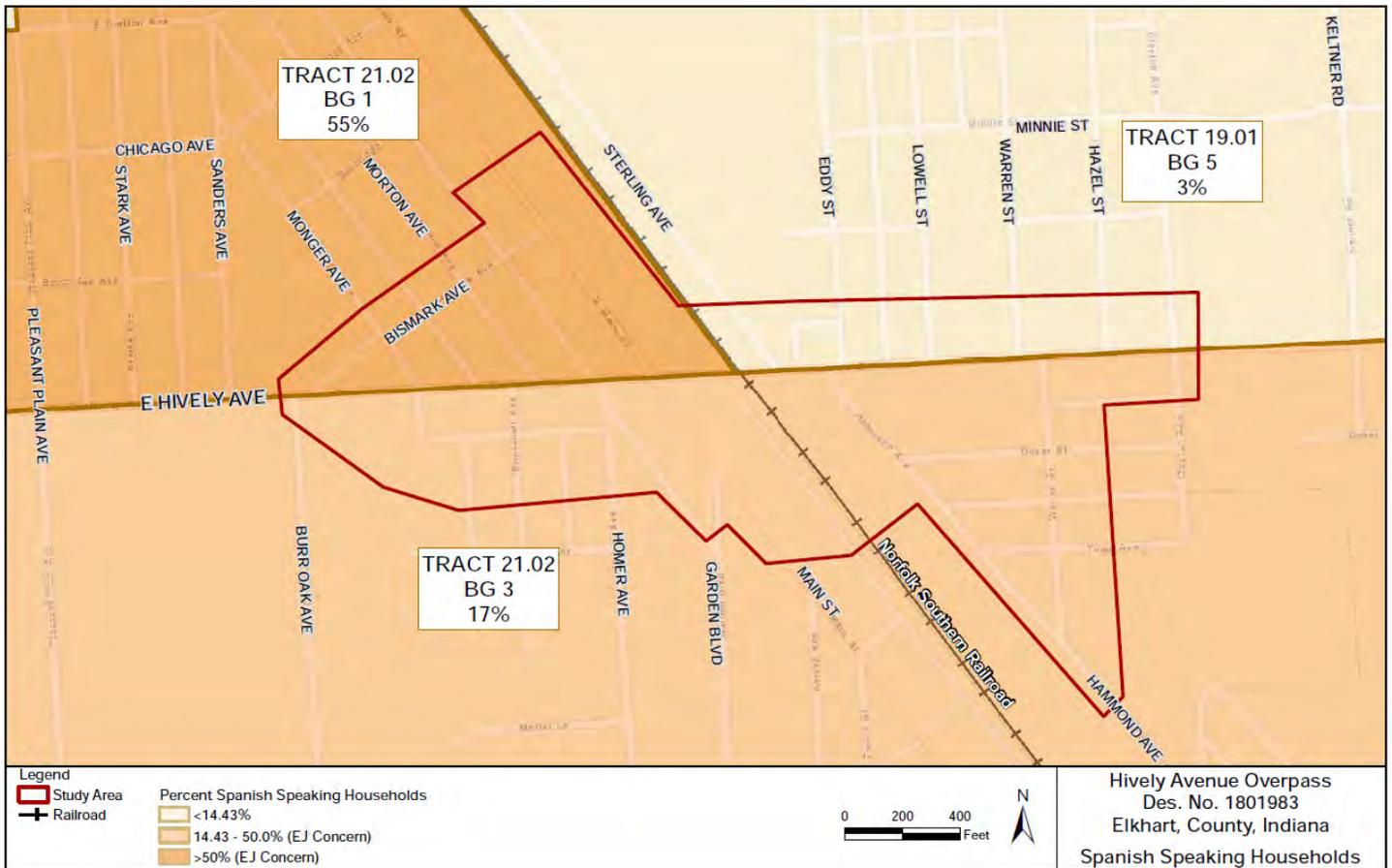


Exhibit 5. Hively Avenue Overpass Spanish Speaking Households within Study Area

Public Involvement Goals

INDOT and the City of Elkhart are committed to a meaningful public involvement process. Public involvement provides an opportunity for the full spectrum of public participation, from individuals, organizations, business interests, neighborhoods, and communities, to local, state, and federal officials. All participants are afforded an opportunity to provide input on project-related concerns, alternatives, and solutions.

Communication tools will be provided through a variety of channels and materials will be translated to Spanish when possible to be able to effectively reach as many people as possible in the community.

Effective public involvement is essential to obtaining information about the community and developing alternatives. Through public involvement efforts, the City of Elkhart, INDOT, and consultants (the Project Team) will build relationships, encourage conversation and share information throughout the project.

Partnership with City of Elkhart

Kickoff Meeting

A kickoff meeting was held with the City of Elkhart on May 8, 2019. The meeting covered the project timeline, constraints and considerations, community, connectivity, and EJ considerations. The City of Elkhart provided information on how the community currently uses the study area including the surrounding neighborhoods, Monger Elementary school, school bus traffic, pedestrian movements, and local businesses including the El Rosal Supermarket.

City of Elkhart Executive Briefing

A meeting was held on June 22, 2021 with the City of Elkhart and the Mayor to discuss the preliminary preferred alternative, preliminary right of way (ROW) and property impacts, schedule, and next steps. The Mayor requested a third public information meeting prior to the Public Hearing to show the preliminary preferred traffic flow and anticipated ROW impacts.

NEPA timeline and key milestones

Exhibit 6 shows the project timeline. This timeline will continue to be updated throughout the life of the project.

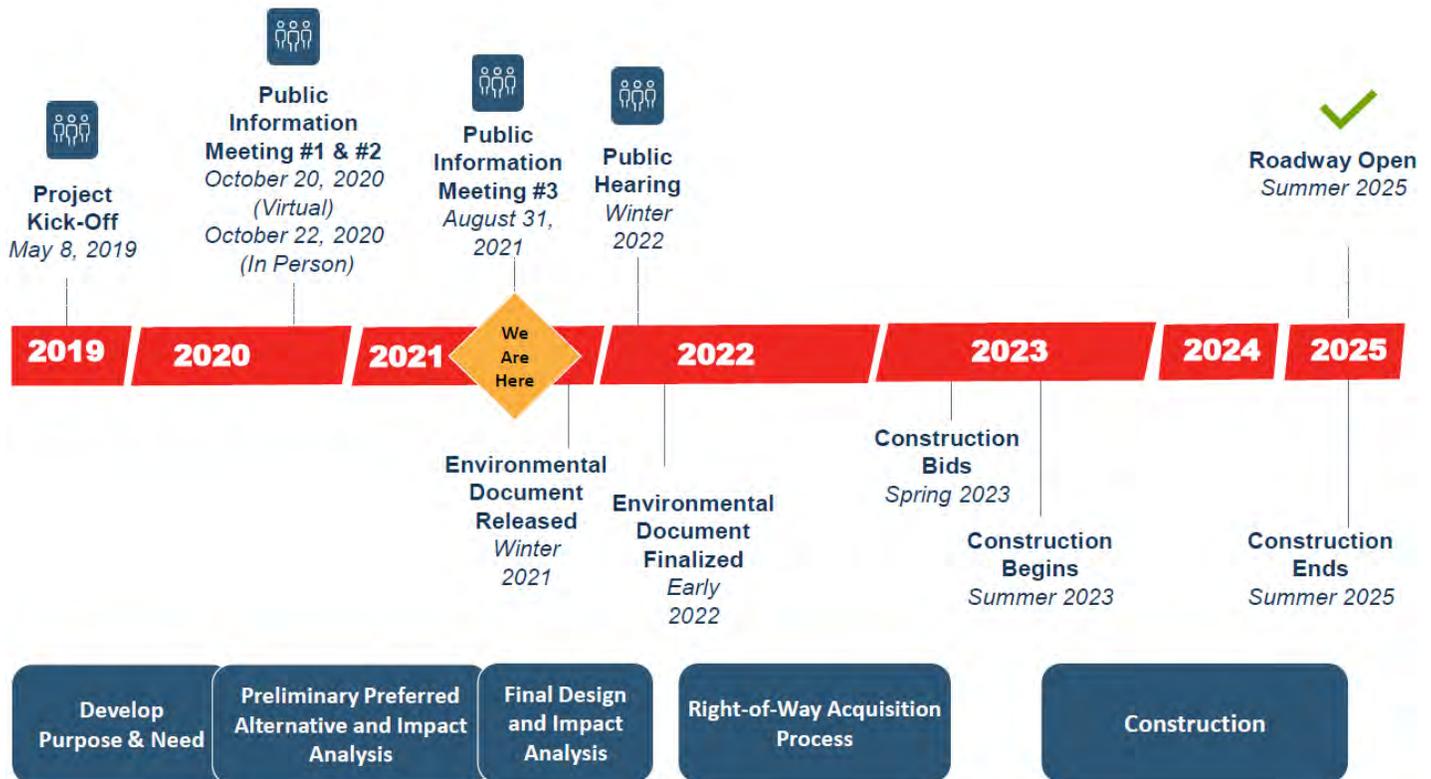


Exhibit 6. Hively Avenue Overpass Project Timeline, taken from Public Information Meeting #3



Key Stake Holders

There are a number of key stakeholders to communicate with and engage throughout the environmental study. Making sure these stakeholders are informed will help reinforce the purpose and need of the project, set expectations, dispel rumors and misinformation and build engagement. Sharing information throughout the environmental process will help build project understanding and support before construction begins. A variety of tools will be used to reach these stakeholders around key milestones and throughout the environmental process.

List of key stakeholders

A list of Key Stakeholders was developed by the City of Elkhart (Table 2). In addition to this list, property owners, including residential and commercial, were identified within and adjacent to the Study Area and have been added to the Project mailing list (Appendix A for full mailing list).

Table 2. Hively Avenue Overpass Project Key Stakeholder List

Organization	Name	Address	City	State	Zip
City of Elkhart	Tory Irwin	1201 S Nappanee St	Elkhart	IN	46516
INDOT	Jason Holder	100 N. Senate Ave	Indianapolis	IN	46204
Elkhart Community Schools	Steve Thalheimer	2720 California Road	Elkhart	IN	46514
Monger Elementary School	April Walker	1101 E. Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
Concord Community Schools	Dan Funston	59040 Minuteman Way	Elkhart	IN	46517
Elkhart County Highway Department	Charlie McKenzie	610 Steury Avenue	Goshen	IN	46528
Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce	Levon Johnson	418 S. Main St	Elkhart	IN	45615
Zion Missionary Church		1135 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
Concord Fire Department		23625 County Road 18	Elkhart	IN	45616
Elkhart County Sheriff's Office		26861 County Road 26	Elkhart	IN	46517
Norfolk Southern RR					
Residents	<i>Multiple</i>				
Local Businesses	<i>Multiple</i>				

Branding

Name and Logo

Branding is essential for project identity and will support successful public outreach efforts. Through branding, concise messaging and key collateral pieces, we ensure all communications from the Project Team are clear and consistent. The Hively Avenue Overpass Project utilizes the City of Elkhart Logo and INDOT Local TRAX Rail Overpass Program logo as the project is a joint team effort between the City of Elkhart and INDOT.





Public Information Meetings and Public Hearing

Public Information meetings and a hearing will follow the 2012 INDOT Public Involvement Procedures Manual (PIPM). To the maximum extent practicable, ensure that public meetings are held at convenient and accessible locations and times.

Virtual Information Meetings

Virtual Information Meetings will utilize Zoom to present project information.

Open House Format

Public Open Houses will follow the most current public health parameters. Stations will be set up with project information and graphics.

Public Hearing

During the hearing, the public will have an opportunity to interact with Project Team members, learn about the preferred alternative, ask questions and offer comments during the hearing. All comments will be recorded and considered by the Project Team.

Public Meeting Outreach Tools

Website

Project information has been posted to both the City of Elkhart's website and INDOT's website. The websites are maintained by the City of Elkhart and INDOT. Website links:

- <http://www.elkhartindiana.org>
- <https://www.elkhartindiana.org/egov/apps/document/center.egov?view=item&id=5594>
- <https://www.in.gov/indot/files/Local%20Trax%20Flier%20April2020.pdf>

Social Media

Updates and project information have been posted for the public information meetings on the City of Elkhart's social media pages including Twitter and Facebook and INDOT's social media, Twitter and Facebook. These social media accounts are maintained by the City of Elkhart and INDOT.

Facebook:

@CityOfElkhartIN

@INDOTNortheast

Twitter:

@CityofElkhartIN

@INDOTNortheast

Fliers/Postcards

In an effort to reach as many people in the community as possible, postcards and mailers are used to distribute information to the public, specifically residential, commercial, and community resources located within or adjacent to the study area. Fliers and postcards, in both English and Spanish, will be distributed to the addresses identified in the mailing list identified in Appendix A. In addition, fliers will be hand distributed to local businesses in town.

Public Notices

Public notices allow Project information advertisement and announcement. Public notices will be posted in local newspapers including a local Spanish newspaper.

Local facilities

Local facilities are used to distribute project information and hold public information meetings.

Comment Forms

Comment forms are used to allow the public at in-person meetings to write down their comments to be added into the public record. The comment forms also provide the Hively Avenue Overpass Project email and mailing address if they would prefer to email or mail in comments.

Project Contact Information

Project contact information sheets are used to identify where written inquiries and comments can be sent via email or mail. It also provides the Project Team representative's phone numbers.

PowerPoint Presentations

PowerPoint Presentations are used to provide project information during public information meetings. The Project Team will maintain the presentation, updating and sharing it with key team members as milestones approach.

Maps and Display Boards

Maps and display boards are used to visually reinforce key messages and to share project information. The maps and boards are printed and mounted for public meetings, presentations and stakeholder meetings, as needed. The maps and display boards will evolve throughout the environmental study and will be produced surrounding key milestones.

Spanish Translation/Translator

Public information notification materials translated in Spanish are used to ensure effective communication and reach everyone in the community. Any public information materials that are not translated can be requested to be translated at any time.

A Spanish translator is used to provide translation at the public information meetings and hearing to effectively reach everyone who attends.



Media Relations

A proactive and strategic media relations plan is an important part of the project. Sharing information through the news media is a highly-effective and low-cost tool to build awareness, understanding and engagement for the Project. The Project Team is working closely with reporters and media outlets to provide project information, share important updates and help ensure accurate coverage.

Communications Protocols

All written inquiries and comments can be sent via email at ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com or by mail at **3815 River Crossing Parkway, Suite 20 Indianapolis, IN 46240.**

Communications

Project Team Members Contact Information

Table 3. Hively Avenue Overpass Project Agency Leaders

Name	Title	Employer	Email Address
Tory Irwin	City/Utility Engineer	City of Elkhart	Tory.Irwin@coei.org
Ryan Clussman	Right-of-Way Engineer	City of Elkhart	Ryan.clussman@coei.org
Corinne Straight-Reed	Director of Communications	City of Elkhart	Corinne.Straight-Reed@coei.org
Jason Holder	Local TRAX Program Manager	INDOT	JHolder@indot.IN.gov
Jason Springer	Project Manager	INDOT	JSpringer@indot.IN.gov
Scott Manning	Deputy of Chief Staff	INDOT	SManning1@indot.IN.gov

Table 4. Hively Avenue Overpass Project Consultant Leaders

Name	Title	Employer	Email Address
Charles Boltz	Project Manager	Michael Baker International	Charles.Boltz@mbakerintl.com
Wendy Vachet	Public and Environmental Lead	Michael Baker International	Wendy.Vachet@mbakerintl.com
Laura Jack	Environmental Scientist	Michael Baker International	Laura.Jack@mbakerintl.com
Jason Mathias	Engineer	Burgess & Niple, Inc.	Jason.mathias@burgessniple.com
Erin Pipkin	Public Involvement Support	Compass Outreach Solutions LLC	Erin@compassoutreachsolutions.com
Jim Deahl	ROW Services Manager	Jim Deahl Consulting	jdeahl.consulting@gmail.com
Joe Gromosky	ROW Services	Boomerang Ventures	jg@boomerangventures.com

Public Information Meeting Summaries

Public Information Meeting #1 (Virtual) and #2 (In Person) Summary

Public notices were posted on October 7, 2020 via local newspapers, including the El Puente newspaper, advertising a Public Information Meeting #1 virtual Zoom meeting and a Public Information Meeting #2 in-person public open house. Postcards were created that showed the project termini and at-grade crossing location and provided public meeting information for both the virtual Zoom meeting and in-person open house. This information was translated in Spanish on the back of the postcard. Approximately 608 postcards were mailed out to residential addresses and approximately 42 postcards were mailed to businesses within or adjacent to the project study area. In addition, team members took mailers, which included information in both English and Spanish, to local businesses around town to distribute flier information about the public information meetings.

Public Information Meeting #1: A virtual Zoom meeting was held on October 20, 2020 from 5-7pm eastern. The Zoom meeting was led by Michael Baker on behalf of the City of Elkhart and INDOT. A PowerPoint presentation was used to provide project information and show exhibits. The chat feature was opened at the end of the presentation for any questions. The PowerPoint presentation was posted to the City of Elkhart website. Approximately 55 people attended the Zoom meeting.

Public Information Meeting #2: An in-person open house was held on October 22, 2020 at Zion Missionary Church from 5-7pm eastern. A welcome table was set up with a sign-in sheet, comment forms, and project information sheets. Stations were set-up with exhibits that showed the project location, alternatives, and alternative comparisons. Members of the Project Team were at each station to talk about the project and answer questions. The City of Elkhart provided a Spanish interpreter for anyone to use during the open house. Approximately 67 people attended the open house.

Approximately 20 public comments have been received in regard to the public information meetings to date. A public comment response table is in progress and will continue to be developed as the project continues.

The WNDU, a local news channel, conducted an interview via the phone with Jason Holder, INDOT and in-person interviews with the City of Elkhart. The interview can be found here:

<https://www.wndu.com/2020/10/20/possibilities-for-new-elkhart-overpass-unveiled/>.

Public Information Meeting #3 Summary

Public notices were posted through August 16, 2021 through August 24, 2021 in the Goshen News, Elkhart Truth, and the El Puente's website. Approximately 608 postcards, which included information in both English and Spanish, were mailed out to residential addresses and approximately 42 postcards were mailed to businesses within or adjacent to the project study area. A flier, with information in both English and Spanish, was hand delivered to local businesses in town within and adjacent to the project area. A PowerPoint presentation was prepared, including the exhibits to be used at the open house, to be posted to the City of Elkhart's website.

An in-person open house was held on August 31, 2021 at Zion Missionary Church from 5-7pm eastern. A welcome table was set up with a sign-in sheet, comment forms, project contact information sheets, and a



frequent asked questions handout. Stations were set-up with exhibits that showed the project study area, area network, preliminary preferred alternative, preliminary preferred alternative travel movements, preliminary preferred alternative ROW and property impacts, project timeline, and preliminary preferred alternative anticipated impacts. Members of the Project Team were at each station to talk about the project and answer questions. The City of Elkhart provided a Spanish interpreter for anyone to use during the open house.

A station was set up ROW Services members of the Project Team to answer questions about ROW and relocations. FHWA Relocation, FHWA Spanish translated Relocation, and Acquisition Brochures were also provided.

Approximately 80 people attended the open house. One comment was received at the open house and the public comment period is still on-going.



Appendix A: Mailing List

Hively Overpass Mailing List

Owner Name	Owner Address	Owner City	Owner State	Owner Zip
DAVID UMBITA ALVARADO	1802 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
CASBA BARRON ALVINO	2626 WARREN ST	Elkhart	IN	46516
AIIME ANGIULO	23875 US Highway 33	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant or Resident	2616 Eddy Street	Elkhart	IN	46516
JAMES E & BARBARA J BATES	21102 US Highway 20	Goshen	IN	46528
Tenant or Resident	2737 Hammond Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
MB PROPERTIES LLC	23988 COUNTY ROAD 16 EAST	Elkhart	IN	46516
Tenant or Resident	1808 Dover	Elkhart	IN	46516
MICHAEL & NANCY B BONEWITZ	16166 Canton Dr	Goshen	IN	46526
Tenant or Resident	1219 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46517
BLANCA E CARDOSO	2676 Morton Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
BLANCA ESTEL CARDOSO	2676 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
PABLO & BARBARA CASTANEDA CASTANEDA	2805 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
RODOLFO & MARILU NOVDA CASTILLO	1605 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
CONJUELO CESA	1823 Kenilworth Dr	Elkhart	IN	46514
CHAMP BA ENTERPRISES LLC	1877 Center St	Portage	IN	46388
MARK S & JACQUELINE CRAM	2425 Jackson Blvd	Elkhart	IN	46516
Tenant or Resident	2734 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
RICHARD A CROWE	2713 Roosevelt Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
CARLOS CLAUZITO	2644 MONSTER AVE	Elkhart	IN	46517
WILLIAM & BETSY DAVIES	12115 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
ESTELA ECHEVARRIA	1818 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46516
ELKHART COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ATTN JC RICE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER	2720 California Rd	Elkhart	IN	46514
LOVE & ROSINA MUMAMBAI FOUST	1301 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
MARCO & REVESLA GARIBO	2009 Monroe Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
JUAN GRANADOS	1704 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46516
DOLLY G GREGORY	325 W Garfield Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
Tenant or Resident	2647 Morton Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
HARVEST HOMES LLP	59999 E County Line Rd	Middlebury	IN	46540
Tenant or Resident	1806 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46516
GLENDA DEVLIN HENDERSON	18782 TYLER DR	Goshen	IN	46528
FRANCES S HUNTER	418 West Holton Dr	Elkhart	IN	46514
Tenant or Resident	2703 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
HYDRA HOLDINGS LLC	51158 PINE BROOK DR	Bristol	IN	46507
Tenant or Resident	2680 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
INDIAN CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED MISSIONARY CHURCH INC	11115 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
AARACELI JIMENEZ	2636 STERLING AVE	Elkhart	IN	46516
GREGORY J JOHNSON	58342 County Road 115	Goshen	IN	46528
Tenant or Resident	2726 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
RUSSELL E & ANGELA JOHNSON	12115 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
PAVEL & GALINA KABARDIN	58554 ST MARYS LN	Goshen	IN	46528
Tenant or Resident	2729 Hammond Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
JEFFERY A & JOHNN ALBERT KLEIN JT TEN	2618 WARREN	Elkhart	IN	46516
KRISTEN CASARELLI FAMILY TRUST	6240 CALLABARA PLACE	SAN LUIS OBISPO	CA	97061
Tenant or Resident	2721 Homer	Elkhart	IN	46517
EARNEST C KYLE	1304 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
AUGUSTINO & MARIA LACORDO	2806 Pleasant Plain Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant or Resident	2730 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
DENNIS LAVARNE & KATHY A MANN	2718 Homer Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
MARLIN B & LOS K MARTIN	2632 Pleasant Plain Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant or Resident	1121 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46517
PETER R & HELMUT W MCCLURE JT TEN MCCLURE	15386 COUNTY ROAD 4	Bristol	IN	46507
Tenant or Resident	2617 Eddy St	Elkhart	IN	46516
RALPH MCCRAY	2646 Morton Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
MICHAEL MCCLELLAN	2809 HAMMOND AVE	Elkhart	IN	46516
MARLA A MEZA	2228 FRANCES AVE	Elkhart	IN	46517
MIDAS PROPERTIES INC MIDAS REALTY CORP C/O MARVIN F. POER & CO.	4280 Professional Center Drive	Palm Beach Gardens	FL	33410
Tenant or Resident	2692 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
CHAD M MILLER	2670 MORTON AVE	Elkhart	IN	46517
DEWAYNE & RUBY MILLER	22359 County Road 30	Goshen	IN	46526
Tenant or Resident	1319 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46517
ANTHONY E & PAMELA MOORE	1801 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
HEAR SONG PAU	1223 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46517
EDWIN & NATALY CORTES PINEDA	2712 ROOSEVELT	Elkhart	IN	46517
JASON S RAGSDALE	1833 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
MARGARET R REYES	2722 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
LEON & ELBA A ROBINSON	1217 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
RICK A & LYLE D & VIRGINIA S SNOODGRASS JT TEN ROBINSON	1207 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
MARIA E SANTIAGO	2801 Hammond Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
SHAM COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES LLC	2707 WARREN ST	Elkhart	IN	46516
WILLIAM C & KARENLY A BOTTORFF JT TEN SMITH	1706 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
SOUTHLAND CORPORATION THE ATTN TAX DEPT 401977	PO Box 711	Dallas	TX	75221
Tenant or Resident	2700 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
DOROTHY J SPAUGH REVOCABLE TRUST	23726 Bell Ridge Dr	Elkhart	IN	46516
Tenant or Resident	1815 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46516
SSSTING LLC	2106 Marabou Pl	Goshen	IN	46528
Tenant or Resident	2654 Morton Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
SHAWN W TAYLOR	4650 Morton Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
JORGE TREGO	2213 Stevens Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant or Resident	2693 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
UNIQUE OUTREACH MINISTRY INC D/B/A UNIQUE LEARNING ACADEMY	52990 Glenmoor St	Elkhart	IN	46514
Tenant or Resident	2649 Morton Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
RAUL V VARELA	801 N CAVIN ST	Laguna	CA	92652
Tenant or Resident	1802 Dover	Elkhart	IN	46516
NORA A WADE TRUSTEE NOBA WADE TRUST	1702 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
ESTATE OF JEFFREY WEST	1015 MARIANNA ST	Angola	IN	46701
Tenant or Resident	2644 Starling Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
DENNIS E & DIANA S WILLIAMS	2618 Lowell Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
WORLD BUSINESS LEADERS LLC	101 HUDSON ST 3RD FLOOR	Jersey City	NJ	07302
Tenant or Resident	21701 Hammond Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
MOEENE M YOUNG c/o MILDRED YOUNG	535 S ALMA SCHOOL RD LOT 28	Mesa	AZ	85210
Tenant or Resident	1305 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46516
ASON ZOLTAN	23153 Circle Ln	Elkhart	IN	46514
Tenant or Resident	2300 Starling Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
CHRISTY A ALLEN	1101 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46517
ELLY M RODRIGUEZ DE QUINONEZ	1107 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46517
FREDERICK D B MAE N REIDING	1916 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
MARIA FIGUEROA	1919 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant or Resident	2651 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant or Resident	2655 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
ERNESTO S MARQUERO VARGACAL LUZ	2806 S Main St	Elkhart	IN	46517
ANTHONY C & CATHERINE A RUSSO TRUSTEES OF RUSSO FAMILY TRUST	3001 Twin Pines Pl	Elkhart	IN	46514
DRILEY REALTY LLC	3305 N Anthony Blvd	Fort Wayne	IN	46805
CURTIS HOLT	2007 E Hively	Elkhart	IN	46516
DOUGLAS E BLOTT & JOHN G GIBBERT JT BOS	1922 E Hively Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
ADVANCE STORES COMPANY INCORPORATED	5008 Aspett Rd NW	Roanoke	VA	24012
ALAN L KADO TRUSTEE 1/2 INT & DIANA M KADO TRUSTEE 1/2 INT	24715 County Road 26	Elkhart	IN	46517
AUTOZONE INC A NEVADA CORP AUTO ZONE #659	PO Box 2198 DEPT 8088	Memphis	TN	38001
BACKLAY CORP THE INC CORP	PO Box 536	Smith Bend	IN	46524
BRAD HODGINS	1501 DOGWOOD DR	Elkhart	IN	46514
CHARLES L & ANN B RAGLAND & STEVEN RAGLAND JT TEN	57382 Katherin Rd	Elkhart	IN	46516
CLAUDIA Q VELASQUEZ	3105 S AVE NUR Q12	PALMDALE	CA	93550
DENNIS SIMMONS	2715 ROOSEVELT	Elkhart	IN	46517
ERNESTO LUZ	21103 Cottage Grove Ct	Elkhart	IN	46516
GAMALIEL CRUZ	2719 ROOSEVELT	Elkhart	IN	46517
GARY MIDDLETON	17810 County Road 102	Bristol	IN	46507
GIUSEPPE & ROSA SQUILIANO	2822 Pleasant Plain Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
GLENN W & CAROL SUE HENDERSON TRUSTEES REV LIV TR	56993 Timber Ct	Elkhart	IN	46516
GRICEL SANTOS	2633 Morton Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
HUGHES REALTY & EQUIPMENT CO INC	1 S Joseph Mfr	Elkhart	IN	46516
ROSSI GARIBER JR	2624 Hazel St	Elkhart	IN	46516
JOSEFINA RUSS OROPEZA & PEDRO E OROPEZA	1218 Bismark Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
KASAR INVESTMENTS LLC	P O Box 47	Elkhart	IN	46515
KR PIZAS INC	1134 S NIPPANEE STREET	Elkhart	IN	46516
KRES TUBBS	21188 County Road E8	Elkhart	IN	46516
LIS & MARIA NAVARRETE	805 Concord Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
MEL B & CAROL A HOCHSTETLER	53820 Iola Rd	Elkhart	IN	46514
PAUL J & PATRICIA E HENZL	2709 Burr Oak Ave	Elkhart	IN	46517
PAUL M THORSH & BRENDA J THORSH	22805 FAIR OAKS CT	Elkhart	IN	46514
Tenant or Resident	2620 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
Resident or Tenant	2636 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
Resident or Tenant	2648 Morton Ave	Elkhart	IN	46516
Resident or Tenant	2641 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
Resident or Tenant	2642 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
Resident or Tenant	2716 ROOSEVELT	Elkhart	IN	46517
Resident or Tenant	2729 HOMER	Elkhart	IN	46517
Resident or Tenant	2815 HAMMOND AVE	Elkhart	IN	46516
Resident or Tenant	2816 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
ROGER HAINES & LEWIS HAINES TRUSTEE	PO Box 501	Nappanee	IN	46550
Tenant	2637 S MAIN ST SUITE A & B	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant	2652 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant	2666 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant	2719 HOMER	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant	1219 HAMMOND AVE	Elkhart	IN	46516
Tenant	2830 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
Tenant or Resident	2820 S MAIN ST	Elkhart	IN	46517
MICHAEL PATRICK THOMAS & SANDRA ELIZABETH THOMAS	2638 MORTON AVE	Elkhart	IN	46516
VICTOR MANUEL ZANABARON & VICTOR PONCE JT TEN	2602 Hazel St	Elkhart	IN	46516
TYLER AUSTIN TROYER	2642 MONSTER AVE	Elkhart	IN	46517



Appendix B: Public Information Meeting #1 & #2 Advertisement Materials



Public Stakeholder Meeting

October 6, 2020

Dear [],

Later this month the Indiana Department of Transportation and City of Elkhart are hosting two events to inform residents and solicit feedback about the proposed Local Trax Railroad Grade Separation at Hively Avenue. We hope you are able to join us or send someone in your place.

A virtual Zoom meeting, including a presentation, will be:

- Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 5 to 7 p.m.
- www.zoom.com, Meeting ID 923 9796 3027, password 664032.

An in-person public open house will be:

- Thursday, October 22, 2020, 5 to 7 p.m.
- Zion Missionary Church Cafeteria, 1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

The purpose of the virtual public meeting and open house is to provide an opportunity to learn about and comment on the proposed 0.5-mile Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue on the southeast side of Elkhart in Elkhart County. The project limits extend from Bismark Avenue to Hazel Street and extend to crossing streets including Monger Avenue, Morton Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Main Street, Garden Boulevard, Norfolk Southern Railway, Sterling Avenue, Eddy Street, Hammond Avenue, Lowell Avenue and Warren Street. More information is available at www.elkhartindiana.org.



We would appreciate anything you can do to help us promote these events. If you cannot join us, we are happy to provide materials and information after the meetings, and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
City of Elkhart

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 October 7, 2020

Contact: Erin Pipkin
 erin@compassoutreachsolutions.com
 (317) 966-7301

INDOT and City of Elkhart to Host Two Events for the Hively Avenue Local Trax Project

Virtual meeting and in-person open house aim to inform residents and business owners

ELKHART, IN - The Indiana Department of Transportation and City of Elkhart will host two events to inform residents and solicit feedback about the proposed Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue.

A virtual Zoom meeting, including a presentation, will be:

- Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 5 to 7 p.m.
- www.zoom.com
- Meeting ID 923 9796 3027, password 664032.

An in-person public open house will be:

- Thursday, October 22, 2020, 5 to 7 p.m.
- Zion Missionary Church Gymnasium
- 1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

The purpose of the virtual public meeting and open house is to provide an opportunity to learn about and comment on the proposed 0.5-mile Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue on the southeast side of Elkhart in Elkhart County. The project limits extend from Bismark Avenue to Hazel Street and extend to crossing streets including Monger Avenue, Morton Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Main Street, Garden Boulevard, Norfolk Southern Railway, Sterling Avenue, Eddy Street, Hammond Avenue, Lowell Avenue and Warren Street.

The public open house will follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance for health and safety protocols. Project team members will wear face masks and/or coverings and attendees are encouraged to do so. Face masks, hand sanitizer and access to hand washing facilities will be provided. Social distancing guidelines will be adhered to, including monitoring the number of attendees participating to comply with local regulations.

Additional project information is available at www.elkhartindiana.org.

PARA PUBLICACIÓN INMEDIATA
5 de octubre de 2020
(317) 966-7301

Contacto: Erin Pipkin
erin@compassoutreachsolutions.com

La reunión virtual y en persona tienen como objetivo informar a los residentes y propietarios de negocios

ELKHART, IN - El Departamento de Transporte de Indiana y la Ciudad de Elkhart organizarán dos eventos para informar a los residentes y solicitar comentarios sobre la propuesta del proyecto de Separación de Grado del Ferrocarril Local Trax en Hively Avenue.

Una reunión virtual en Zoom, y presentación, será:

- Martes 20 de octubre de 2020, de 5 a 7 p.m.
- www.zoom.com
- ID de reunion: 923 9796 3027, contraseña: 664032.

La reunión en persona será:

- Jueves 22 de octubre de 2020, de 5 a 7 p.m.
- Gimnasio de la Iglesia Misionera de Zion
- 1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

El propósito de la reunión pública virtual y la reunión en persona es brindar la oportunidad de conocer y comentar sobre la Separación a Nivel del Ferrocarril Local Trax propuesta de 0.5 millas en Hively Avenue en el lado sureste de Elkhart en el condado de Elkhart. Los límites del proyecto se extienden desde la Avenida Bismark hasta la calle Hazel y se extienden hasta las calles de cruce, incluidas Monger Avenue, Morton Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Main Street, Garden Boulevard, Norfolk Southern Railway, Sterling Avenue, Eddy Street, Hammond Avenue, Lowell Avenue y Warren Street.

La reunión en persona seguirá los protocolos de salud y seguridad del Departamento de Salud del Estado de Indiana (ISDH). Los miembros del equipo del proyecto usarán mascarillas cubiertas y se les pide a los asistentes a que También lo hagan. Se proporcionarán mascarillas, desinfectante de manos y acceso a instalaciones para lavarse las manos. Se seguirán las pautas de distanciamiento social, incluido el monitoreo del número de asistentes que participan para cumplir con las regulaciones locales.

Para mas información, porfavor visite a www.elkhartindiana.org.



Postcard From

Learn more about the Hively Avenue Local Trax Project



To address safety and mobility issues, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the City of Elkhart are partnering to study, design and construct the Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue.

Several alternatives are being considered to eliminate the at-grade crossing and replace it with a bridge to carry Hively Avenue traffic over the railroad tracks.

INDOT and Elkhart are providing residents with two opportunities to learn about the proposed alternatives and provide feedback before the environmental study and design advance.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 5 to 7 p.m.

www.Zoom.com

Meeting ID: 923 9796 3027

Password: 664032

In-Person Open House

Thursday, October 22, 2020, 5 to 7 p.m.

Zion Missionary Church

1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517



Por favor únete a nosotros

Reunión de Zoom Virtual

Martes 20 de octubre de 2020,
de 1las 5 a las 7 p.m.

www.Zoom.com

ID de reunión: 923 9796 3027

Contraseña: 664032

Reunión en persona

Jueves 22 de octubre de 2020,
de 5 a 7 p.m.

Iglesia Misionera de Sion

1135 E. Hively Avenue

Elkhart, IN 46517

www.elkhartindiana.org

Michael Baker International
3815 River Crossing Parkway
Suite 20
Indianapolis, IN 46240



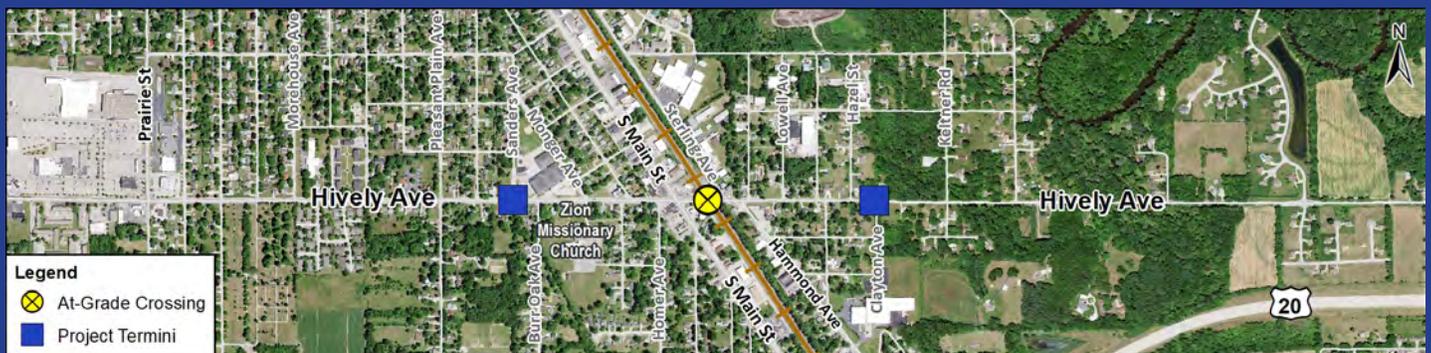


We want your feedback on the Hively Avenue Local Trax Project

To address safety and mobility issues, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the City of Elkhart are partnering to study, design and construct the Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue.

Several alternatives are being considered to eliminate the at-grade crossing and replace it with a bridge to carry Hively Avenue traffic over the railroad tracks.

INDOT and Elkhart are providing residents with two opportunities to learn about the proposed alternatives and provide feedback before the environmental study and design advance.



Please join us

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

5 to 7 p.m.

www.Zoom.com

Meeting ID: 923 9796 3027

Password: 664032

In-Person Open House

Thursday, October 22, 2020

5 to 7 p.m.

Zion Missionary Church

1135 E. Hively Avenue

Elkhart, IN 46517

Visit www.elkhartindiana.org to learn more.



Queremos sus comentarios sobre el Proyecto Ferrocarril Local en Hively Avenue

Para conversar los problemas de seguridad y movilidad, el Departamento de Transporte de Indiana (INDOT) y la Ciudad de Elkhart se están asociando para estudiar, diseñar y construir la Separación a Nivel del Ferrocarril Local Trax en Hively Avenue.

Se están considerando varias alternativas para eliminar el cruce a nivel y reemplázelo con un puente para llevar el tráfico de la avenida Hively sobre las vías del tren.

INDOT y Elkhart están brindando a los residentes dos oportunidades para conversar sobre las propuestas alternativas y brindar comentarios antes del avance del diseño y estudio ambiental.



Una reunión virtual en Zoom

Martes 20 de octubre, 2020 5 a 7 p.m.

www.Zoom.com

ID de reunión: 923 9796 3027

contraseña: 664032

La reunión en persona

Jueves el 22 de octubre, 2020

De 5 a 7 p.m.

Iglesia Misionera de

Zion

1135 E. Hively Avenue

Elkhart, IN 46517

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

The Indiana Department of Transportation and City of Elkhart will host two events to inform residents and solicit feedback about the proposed Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue.

A virtual Zoom meeting, including a presentation, will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, starting at 5 p.m. The meeting is open to everyone at www.zoom.com using meeting ID 923 9796 3027 and password 664032.

An in-person public open house will be hosted on Thursday, October 22, 2020, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Zion Missionary Church at 1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517. Displays and representatives available to answer residents' questions throughout the two-hour window.

The purpose of the virtual public meeting and open house is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to learn about and comment on the proposed 0.5-mile Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue on the southeast side of Elkhart in Elkhart County. The project limits extend from Bismark Avenue to Hazel Street and extend to crossing streets including Monger Avenue, Morton Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Main Street, Garden Boulevard, Norfolk Southern Railway, Sterling Avenue, Eddy Street, Hammond Avenue, Lowell Avenue and Warren Street.

The need for this project stems from safety and mobility issues for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and trains at the railroad crossings. The Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR) trains typically run through these crossings 70 to 100 times a day. Furthermore, the trains regularly stop on the tracks, restricting traffic for extended periods of time, and delaying emergency vehicle access on either side of the tracks. The proposed project will eliminate the existing NSRR at-grade crossing at Hively Avenue by creating a bridge that will carry Hively Avenue traffic over the NSRR and South Main Street.

There will be temporary and permanent right-of-way that will be acquired for this project. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023. During construction, Hively Avenue and the at-grade crossings will remain open to the extent possible. Some closure of local roads is expected and detours will be provided. Additional information will be made available as the project development process progresses.

Additional project information is available at www.elkhartindiana.org.

The public open house will follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance for health and safety protocols. Project team members will wear face masks and/or coverings and attendees are encouraged to do so. Face masks, hand sanitizer and access to hand washing facilities will be provided. Social distancing guidelines will be adhered to, including monitoring the number of attendees participating to comply with local regulations.

In accordance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and with advance notice, INDOT can provide accommodation for persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services such as sign language interpretation, large print materials and/or other related services. If you are an individual with a disability or represent an ADA stakeholder group and require accommodation related to participating at the public open house, you are encouraged to contact Erin Pipkin at erin@compassoutreachsolutions.com or (317) 966-7301.



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Category Public Notices

Published Date October 10, 2020

Notice Details

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hspaxlp

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AFFP
DES. #: 1801933

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF INDIANA }
COUNTY OF ELKHART } SS

DES. #: 1801933

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Courtney Kruger, being duly sworn, says:

The Indiana Department of Transportation and City of Elkhart will host two events to inform residents and solicit feedback about the proposed Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue.

That she is Legal Clerk of the Elkhart Truth, a Daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

A virtual Zoom meeting, including a presentation, will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, starting at 5 p.m. The meeting is open to everyone at www.zoom.com using meeting ID 923 9796 3027 and password 664032.

- October 10, 2020
- October 13, 2020
- October 14, 2020
- October 15, 2020
- October 17, 2020
- October 20, 2020

An in-person public open house will be hosted on Thursday, October 22, 2020, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Zion Missionary Church at 1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517. Displays and representatives available to answer residents' questions throughout the two-hour window.

Publisher's Fee: \$ 335.32

The purpose of the virtual public meeting and open house is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to learn about and comment on the proposed 0.5-mile Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue on the southeast side of Elkhart in Elkhart County. The project limits extend from Bismark Avenue to Hazel Street and extend to crossing streets including Monger Avenue, Morton Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Main Street, Garden Boulevard, Norfolk Southern Railway, Sterling Avenue, Eddy Street, Hammond Avenue, Lowell Avenue and Warren Street.

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

The need for this project stems from safety and mobility issues for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and trains at the railroad crossings. The Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR) trains typically run through these crossings 70 to 100 times a day. Furthermore, the trains regularly stop on the tracks, restricting traffic for extended periods of time, and delaying emergency vehicle access on either side of the tracks. The proposed project will eliminate the existing NSRR at-grade crossing at Hively Avenue by creating a bridge that will carry Hively Avenue traffic over the NSRR and South Main Street.

SIGNED:

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 22nd day of October 2020.

There will be temporary and permanent right-of-way that will be acquired for this project. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023. During construction, Hively Avenue and the at-grade crossings will remain open to the extent possible. Some closure of local roads is expected and detours will be provided. Additional information will be made available as the project development process progresses.

Julie Gaines, Notary Public 05/24/2024

Additional project information is available at www.elkhartindiana.org.

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Erin Pipkin
920 Moonlight Court
Mooreville, IN 46158

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Invoice

Erin Pipkin
Compass Outreach Solutions
920 Moonlight Court
 Mooresville, IN
46158

Invoice Number: 9755
Invoice Date: 10/17/2020
Due Date: 11/03/2020
Account: COMP01
Purchase Order:

Qty	Description	Price	Total
1	Public Notice running on www.webelpuente.com on October 17, 2020	50	50

Invoice Total: \$50.00

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solicitar comentarios sobre la propuesta del proyecto de Separación de Grado del Ferrocarril Local Trax en Hively Avenue.

Una reunión virtual en Zoom, y presentación, será:

- Martes 20 de octubre de 2020, de 5 a 7 p.m.
- www.zoom.com
- ID de reunion: 923 9796 3027, contraseña: 664032.

La reunión en persona será:

- Jueves 22 de octubre de 2020, de 5 a 7 p.m.
- Gimnasio de la Iglesia Misionera de Zion
- 1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

El propósito de la reunión pública virtual y la reunión en persona es brindar la oportunidad de conocer y comentar sobre la Separación a Nivel del Ferrocarril Local Trax propuesta de 0.5 millas en Hively Avenue en el lado sureste de Elkhart en el condado de Elkhart. Los límites del proyecto se extienden desde la Avenida Bismark hasta la calle Hazel y se extienden hasta las calles de cruce, incluidas Monger Avenue, Morton Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Main Street, Garden Boulevard, Norfolk Southern Railway, Sterling Avenue, Eddy Street, Hammond Avenue, Lowell Avenue y Warren Street.

La reunión en persona seguirá los protocolos de salud y seguridad del Departamento de Salud del Estado de Indiana (ISDH). Los miembros del equipo del proyecto usarán mascarillas cubiertas y se les pide a los asistentes a que También lo hagan. Se proporcionarán mascarillas, desinfectante de manos y acceso a instalaciones para lavarse las manos. Se seguirán las pautas de distanciamiento social, incluido el monitoreo del número de asistentes que participan para cumplir con las regulaciones locales.

Para mas información, porfavor visite a www.elkhartindiana.org.



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SEND A TIP

HOME NEWS WEATHER SPORTS ABOUT US WALL OF HONOR MeTV Q f t i y

Elkhart unveils proposals for Hively Avenue overpass

By: Jonathan Bailey

Posted: Oct 21, 2020 12:42 AM EST

FACEBOOK
 TWITTER
 EMAIL

NOW: Elkhart unveils proposals for Hively Avenue overpass

NEXT: Michiana Crime Stoppers increasing rewards for gun violence tips

ELKHART, Ind.--- The city of Elkhart unveiled four potential plans for an overpass near the intersection of Hively Avenue and South Main Street in a virtual meeting on Tuesday. The city was awarded \$16 million in 2018 for the project.

TOP STORIES

Day two in the John Schultz trial; co-conspirator says both were "serious" about shooting

Hovering above freezing, messy Friday possible

FORECAST	
L	32
M	34
T	36
F	34

Michiana Crime Stoppers increasing rewards for gun violence tips



SOUTH BEND, IN

TODAY

TOMORROW

City officials and residents say that the overpass is much needed, especially with the nearly 100 trains that come through that intersection every day.

"It's a big inconvenience," said Dave Palenchar, who lives in Elkhart. "I actually live on the other side of the railroad tracks here so I deal with it quite often."

Two proposals would keep Hively Avenue as is, making the overpass connection point at either South Main Street or Bismark Avenue. The others would shift Hively Avenue to the south with connection points at either South Main Street or Bismark Avenue.

Construction on the overpass is expected to begin in 2023.

There will be an in-person meeting on Thursday from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. held at Zion Missionary Church in Elkhart to discuss the four plans in more details.

For more information on the proposals click [here](#).

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35°
Partly Cloudy

36°
Mostly Cloudy

10 DAY FORECAST



First Warning Neighborhood Weather ▶

RADAR MAPS TEMPS

• LATEST

Michiana Crime Stoppers increasing rewards for gun violence tips

32m ago

Suspect in a deadly shooting inside a Washington state grocery store has been arrested, police say

1h ago

City of Elkhart passes resolution opposing house bill 1134

1h ago

A dozen more Revolutionary War-era cannons have been



Possibilities for new Elkhart overpass unveiled

By [Mark Peterson](#)

Published: Oct. 20, 2020 at 5:39 PM EDT

ELKHART, Ind. (WNDU) - In Elkhart, the public is getting its first peek at who may be in the path of progress.

Four proposed routes for a railroad overpass at Hively Avenue are being unveiled.

The \$20 million project has basically reached its halfway point. It's been in the works since 2017 and construction is expected to start in 2023.

"It's a huge area of congestion and especially during the school year we have busses that are getting stuck there, both from Elkhart schools and Concord schools so this is going to be a huge relief to a lot of travelers that go down that way everyday," said Elkhart's Director of Communications Corrine Straight-Reed.

"They are on a busy Norfolk Southern line it's one of the busiest in Indiana," said INDOT's Jason Holder in a telephone interview with 16 News Now.

The project is bound to require the relocation of some homes and businesses in the area.

Which homes and businesses, and how many, will depend on which of the four current options is chosen as the final design.

"We've looked into obviously just looking at how many prospective relocations there would be—Impacts to the local to the local real estate but none of that stuff has been finalized enough to be presenting numbers with any kind of confidence at this point," Jason Holder added.

The preferred plan shows a realigned Hively Avenue with a bridge extending over the tracks and over South Main Street.

The option is listed as the lowest cost alternative that minimizes business impacts.

The option would also keep Hively open for a majority of the construction project.

This week two meetings will be held to gather public input.

The first takes place October 20th virtually via zoom, 5 to 7 p.m. www.Zoom.com.

Meeting ID: 923 9796 3027

Password: 664032

The second will be held Oct. 22 from 5 until 7 p.m. at Zion Missionary Church, 1135 E. Hively.

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Elkhart planning to build overpass at Hively Ave. to increase railroad crossing safety

by Ed Ernstes, WSBT 22 Reporter
Monday, October 19th 2020



WSBT 22 photo

Elkhart railroad crossing safer.

On an average day, the Hively Avenue railroad crossing sees a lot of traffic.

There have been accidents at the crossing, a fact noticed by both the city and the Indiana Department of Transportation.

“We have about 6,000 vehicles per day that go by, so it creates a dangerous intersection,” said City Engineer Tory Irwin. “There have been a number of fatalities over the decades. It is almost entirely a safety-related concern. With over 70 to 100 trains that go by every day, the state wanted to make sure that we were eliminating dangerous crossing points.”

As part of the project, a consultant for the state doing the design for an overpass has come up with a number of options. It will require nearby property to be bought by the state.

ADVERTISING

"All of the designs require at least taking some of the property, and as that gets worked through, those property owners will be notified. There is a whole process that we have to follow, to make sure that it is fair and equitable process."

Details unveiled on proposed Hively Ave aoverpass

By **Carl Stutsman** - October 21, 2020



Photo by Tommie Lee.

More details on potential plans that would add an overpass to the intersection of Hively Ave and South Main St in Elkhart

The proposals were unveiled in a virtual meeting with the public on Tuesday. It's an area that experiences significant train congestion with about 100 trains that pass that intersection ever day. Of the proposals two would keep Hively as is with an overpass connection at South Main Street or Bismark Ave, and the others would move Hively further south and make connections that way.

The city has had money set aside for the project since 2018, and construction is expected to start in 2023.

There is an in person meeting at Zion Missionary Church in Elkhart Thursday from 5-7pm to discuss other options in further detail.

You can find the full presentation details [here](#)

Carl Stutsman



Appendix C: Public Information Meeting #1 Virtual Meeting Presentation

 <p>City of Elkhart, Indiana <i>the city with a heart</i></p>	
Virtual Zoom Meeting October 20, 2020 5-7pm www.Zoom.com Meeting ID: 923 9796 3027 Password: 664032	Hively Avenue Overpass Project Public Information Meeting #1 In-Person Open House October 22, 2020 5-7pm Zion Missionary Church

1

Virtual Open House Format

- This brief presentation will be given by representatives from Michael Baker International
- All other participants should mute themselves
- Presenters will use their video, and residents may choose whether to use their video
- Use the chat feature to ask questions
- The chat feature will be monitored throughout the presentation
- Once the presentation is complete, questions will be addressed in the order they are received



2

Agenda Overview

- Introductions
- Project Funding/Overview
- Timeline
- Project Stakeholders
- Purpose and Need
- Community Context/Study Area
- Range of Alternatives
- Alternative Comparison- Engineering
- Alternative Comparison-Environmental/Community
- Preliminary Preferred Alternative
- Next Steps
- Questions and Comments
- Project Contact Information

3

Introductions

- The Team
 - INDOT
 - City of Elkhart
 - Michael Baker
 - Burgess and Niple
 - VS Engineering
 - SJCA
 - Compass Outreach Solutions



4

Project Funding

- Local TRAX Rail Overpass Program
 - Grant to City
 - INDOT managing the project with local involvement and input
 - City of Elkhart awarded \$12M (2018)
- For More Information:
 - INDOT:
<https://secure.in.gov/indot/files/Local%20Trax%20Flier%20April2020.pdf>
 - www.elkhartindiana.org:
<https://www.elkhartindiana.org/egov/apps/document/center.egov?view=item&id=5594>



5

Project Overview

- Preliminary Feasibility Study (2017)
 - Funded by the City of Elkhart
- Project Advances with Local Trax Funding (2019)
- Phase 1 Engineering and Environmental Studies (On-going)
 - Engineer's Report (2019)
 - Environmental Documentation and Public Outreach (On-going)



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Timeline



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Project Stakeholders

- City of Elkhart
- INDOT
- Elkhart Community Schools
- Monger Elementary School
- Concord Community Schools
- Elkhart County Highway Department
- Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce
- Zion Missionary Church
- Concord Fire Department
- Elkhart County Sheriff's Office
- Residents
- Norfolk Southern RR
- Local businesses



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Purpose and Need

- The project is needed to address traffic congestion, lack of mobility, and safety concerns at the existing at-grade crossing of East Hively Avenue and Norfolk Southern Railroad.
 - 6,000 vehicles traveling along Hively Avenue per day
 - 70-100 trains per day
- The purpose of the project is to improve mobility and safety within the project area by eliminating vehicle backups and congestion while maintaining, as much as possible, access and connectivity.

9

Area Network



10



Community Context

- Use of the existing corridor
- Safety
- Improve mobility for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians
- Local businesses and residential
- MapleHeart Trail

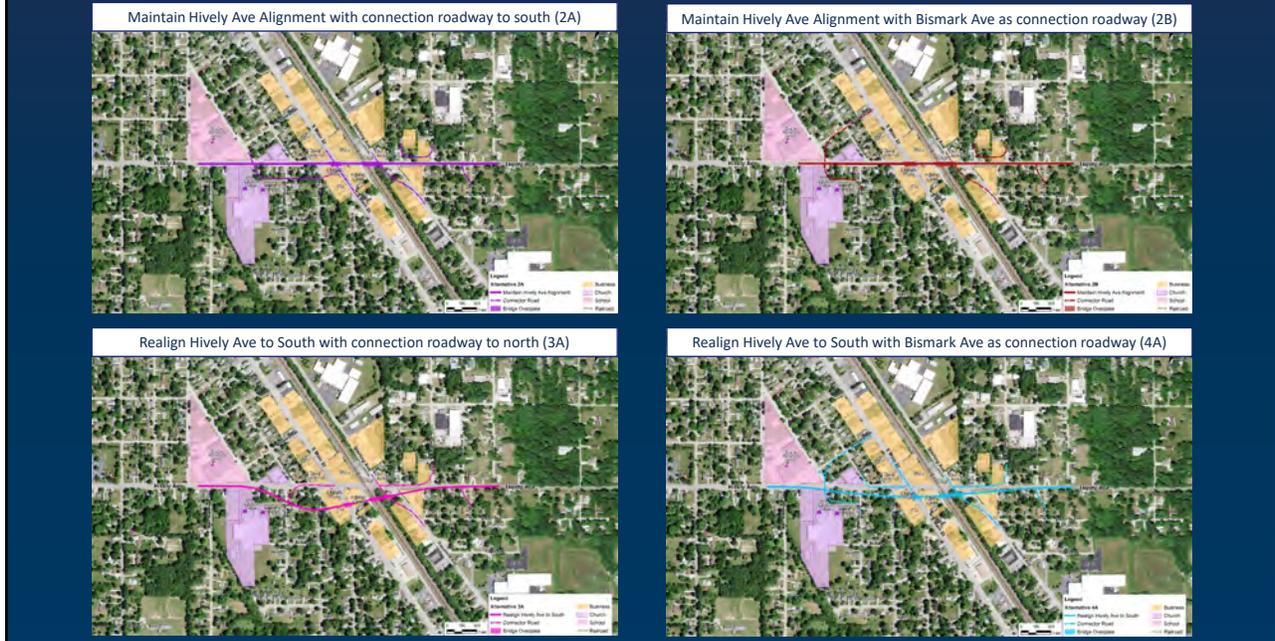
11

Study Area



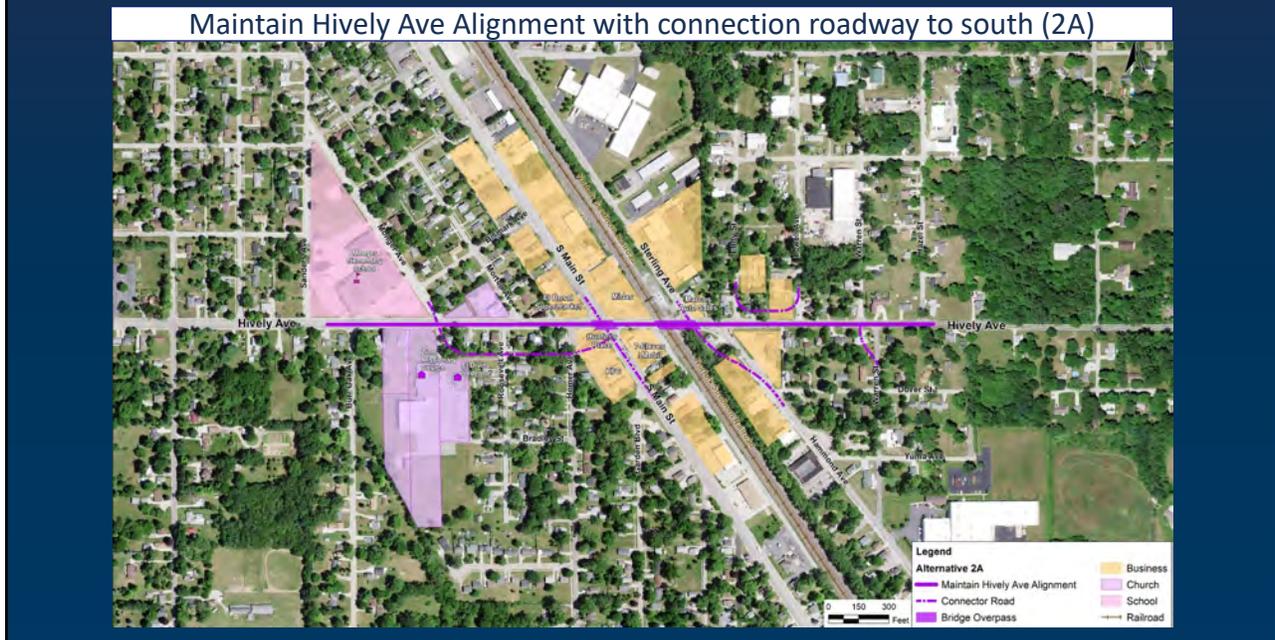
12

Range of Alternatives



13

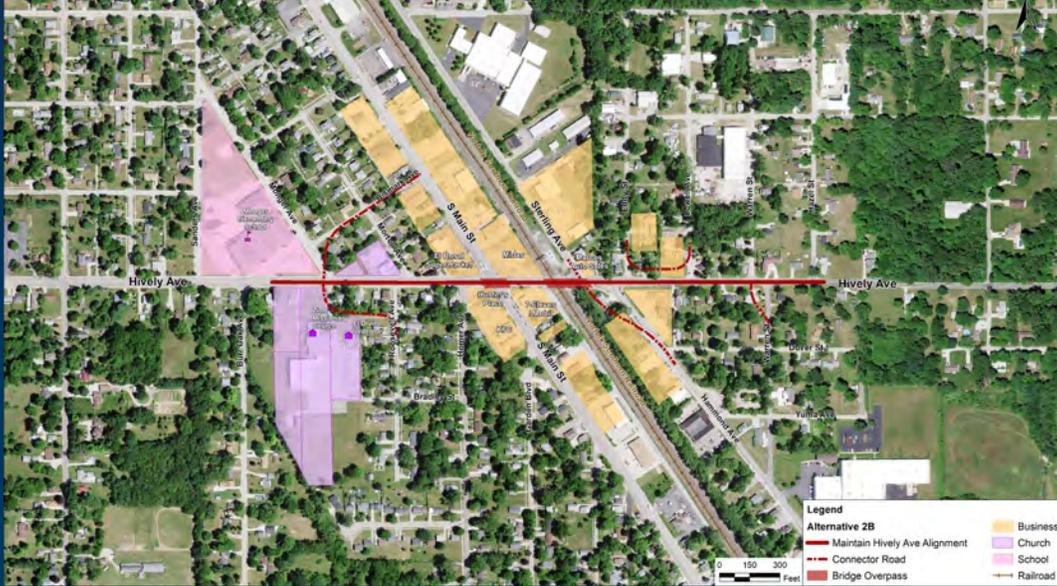
Range of Alternatives- Alternative 2A



14

Range of Alternatives-Alternative 2B

Maintain Hively Ave Alignment with Bismark Ave as connection roadway (2B)



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Range of Alternatives-Alternative 3A

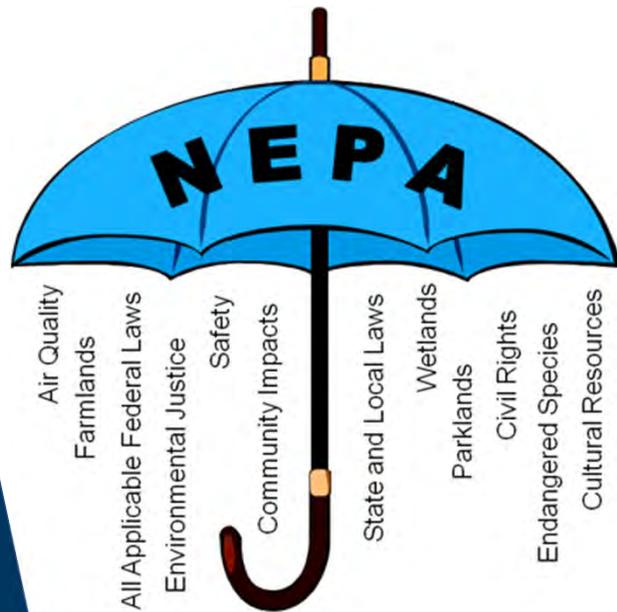
Realign Hively Ave to South with connection roadway to north (3A)



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NEPA Umbrella

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Elkhart Project focus
 - Safety/mobility
 - Community Impacts
 - Property Impacts
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Public Resources-trails/parks
 - Environmental Justice



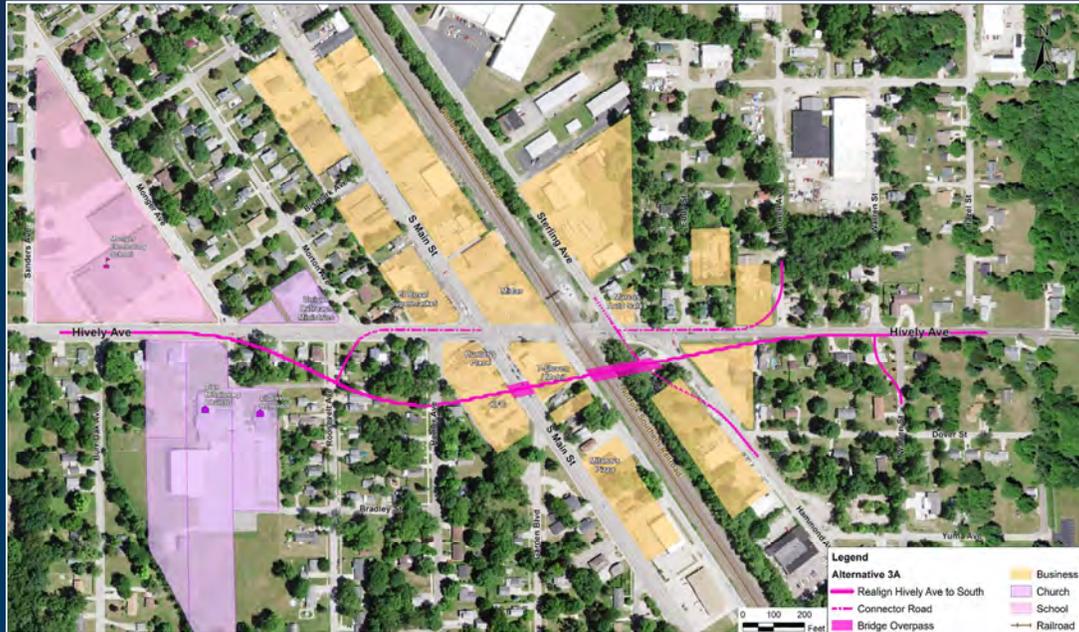
19

Alternative Comparison – Environmental/Community

Benefits/Potential Impacts (Temporary and Permanent)	Alternative 2A	Alternative 2B	Alternative 3A	Alternative 4A
Improved Safety and Mobility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bike/Pedestrian Improvements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community Impacts	Minimum	Minimum	Minimum	Minimum
Property Impacts				
Residential	37	30	35	34
Commercial	11	7	10	8
Other/Community	4	5	2	4
Potential Hazardous Waste Sites (combination of high and medium potential sites)	4	4	4	5
Public Resources (MapleHeart Trail)	Temporary	Temporary	Temporary	Temporary
Environmental Justice Considerations	Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential

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Preliminary Preferred Alternative 3A



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Preliminary Preferred Alternative 3A-Benefits

- Mobility Improvement
 - Vehicles
 - Bicyclists/pedestrians
- Hively Remains Open For A Majority of Construction Period
- Intersections Will be Safer While Maintaining Side Street Access
- Minimize Business Impacts
- Lowest Cost Alternate

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Join us Thursday, October 22

- In-person Public Information Meeting Thursday:
- October 22, 2020
 - Time: 5pm-7pm
- Where: Zion Missionary Church
 - 1135 E. Hively Avenue



Zion Missionary Church
1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517

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Next Steps

- Ongoing: Refine engineering design
- Fall 2020 : Soil borings and field investigations
- Summer 2021: Publish environmental document
- Summer 2021: Public Hearing
- Fall 2021: Right of way acquisition

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Questions and Comments



*Use the chat feature to ask questions

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Ways to Comment

All written inquiries and comments can be sent by email via email at ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com

Or by mail at

**3815 River Crossing Parkway, Suite 20
Indianapolis, IN 46240**

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Additional Information



www.elkhartindiana.org
www.indot.in.gov



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[@INDOTNortheast](https://twitter.com/INDOTNortheast)

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Project Contact Representatives Information



Consultant Representative, Michael Baker International
Contact: Charles Boltz
Phone: 317-663-8430



Local Representative, City of Elkhart
Contact: Ryan Clussman
Office Phone: 574-293-2572 ext 2222



State Representative, INDOT
Contact: Jason Holder
Office Phone: 317-233-3427

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THANK YOU!